

# Welcome Mat Is Out for Stengel as A's General Manager

By JOHN DREBINGER  
 Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—  
 Amid the flurry of reports buzzing around the Yankees these days came one more today.

Casey Stengel, according to this latest tale, may well become the general manager of the Kansas City Athletics for 1961.

The group of Kansas City business men that is prepared to purchase the A's from the club's present owners would be more than pleased to roll out the welcome mat for Stengel to return to his native city.

Charles Dillon Stengel was born in Kansas City in 1890 and derived his nickname from the city's initials.

## A 'Strenuous Job'

"Of course," said a spokesman over the phone, "we wouldn't know whether Stengel, at the age of 70, would care to take over the strenuous job of rebuilding the Athletics. But there is no denying he would be tremendously popular here."

Casey treated the report with the same noncommittal double-talk with which he has greeted reports that have had him retiring, or being asked to retire, as manager of the Yankees after the world series with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"I can only say what I've said right along," said Casey. "As soon as the world series is over I'll announce what my future plans will be."

It may be significant that Casey, in evading a direct answer, refers to "future plans." Close friends insist that despite his years Stengel does not want to quit baseball and that if he voluntarily steps out as manager of the Bombers it will only be to go some place else.

Stengel kept close tabs all last summer on developments in the prospective sale of the A's, whose principal stockholder, Arnold Johnson, died last spring.

In July, Casey disclosed that he knew most of the Kansas City business men who were ready to pay any reasonable price (believed to be \$3,000,000) to keep the A's in Kansas City.

"It's a sound proposition,"



The New York Times

## Manager Casey Stengel clowning it up with George Weiss

said Casey, adding with a wink: "I wouldn't mind having a piece of that myself. But I don't know. If those Texas millionaires go after it and start bidding outlandish figures I guess they'd win out."

There were strong reports at the time that Houston interests were trying to buy the Kansas City American League franchise and move it to the Texas city.

However, since then the picture has changed. One of the reasons was the announcement by the National and American Leagues that, with the dissolution of the Continental League, the two present major leagues were prepared to expand to ten clubs each.

## Other Groups Interested

As a result, the Houston group, headed by Howard Cullinan, is no longer interested in gaining major-league status by way of Kansas City. That group would rather enter the majors as one of the new clubs in the expansion of the National or American League.

Kansas City, therefore, seems reasonably assured of retaining its American League franchise, although various interests about the country are still reported to be in the bidding. However, the Kansas City group, it was

learned today, seems to have the inside track.

That group is represented by a civic committee sponsored by the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. It was organized to keep the A's in Kansas City. For months it has been screening prospective stockholders and the group is now prepared to negotiate with the present owners. The majority stockholder is Mrs. Carmen Humes, widow of Johnson.

Byron Spencer, representing the civic committee, and Edward Gollers, counsel for the owners, are scheduled to meet this Friday to open negotiations.

The present general manager of the Athletics is Parke Carroll, whose contract still has one year to go. However, it is understood that should the Kansas City group complete the sale the deal would include the buying of Carroll's contract. That would leave the door open for the new owners to bring in Casey Stengel.

Incidentally, the club must remain in Kansas City at least through 1961. The contract the A's have with the city for the use of the stadium provides that the club must remain in the city as long as the season paid attendance is 850,000. The A's passed that figure the other day.